REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 11, 13, 14, 16-27, 29, and 31-41 are now pending in the application. Claims 13, 14, 16-27, 29, 31-39, and 41 are allowed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5, 8, 11, and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Baumert et al. (U.S. Pat. Publication No. 2003/0041607, hereinafter "Baumert"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicants note that claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 9. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Claims 2, 3, 5, 8, 11, and 40 depend from claim 1 and, therefore, should be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 8, 11, and 40 are respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 13, 14, 16-27, 29, 31-39, and 41 are allowed.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests

that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _July 14, 2006_   By: _Ryan W. Massey_
                                Ryan W. Massey
                                Reg. No. 38,543

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:
Charles Ellerbrock, Esq.
General Motors Corporation
Legal Staff - Mail Code 482-C23-B21
PO Box 300 - 300 Renaissance Center
Detroit, Michigan 48265-3000
Ph: 313-665-4709
Fax: 313-665-4976

RWM/JMP/slg